

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 87
By Ridgeway

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study potential funding sources for rail-related projects.

WHEREAS, safe, efficient and economical railroad service is vital to the economic well-being of this great state; and

WHEREAS, the rail safety program has been transferred from the public service commission to the department of transportation; and

WHEREAS, many of the state's rail-related statutes were enacted in the 19th century and it is important that the general law in Tennessee be reviewed to determine which sections of the Tennessee Code are obsolete and should be repealed; and

WHEREAS, the department of transportation has retained consultants and formed an advisory council to assist with the development of a state rail plan; and

WHEREAS, among other things, the department of transportation will explore the feasibility of public-private partnerships to facilitate development of a railroad infrastructure capable of accommodating rail freight and passenger needs for both the present and the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly commends the department of transportation for

undertaking this planning initiative; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly wishes to work with the department of transportation to explore possible funding sources for beneficial rail-related projects identified by the state rail plan; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study potential funding sources for rail-related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 1, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.